

February 26, 1962

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Dear General Norstad:

Now that there is, at least for the moment, a lull in Soviet activity in the air corridors, I want to write to tell you personally that, in my judgment, your handling of this affair in the last two weeks has been outstanding. Your alert and skillfully measured response, and your combination of coolness with determination, seem to have communicated themselves to all concerned, and I want you to know that those of us who have been watching in Washington are full of admiration.

I have also wanted to signal my admiration for the individual pilots who have done their jobs with such unflinching courage in the face of harassment, but I understand that you have already indicated to the national commanders your feeling that a recommendation for appropriate recognition is in order. So I would simply ask that if you should have an opportunity you convey to the individuals concerned my own keen sense of the contribution they have made. Indeed, if you should think it suitable, I should be glad to have the names of those who have particularly distinguished themselves so that I may send them personal notes.

Sincerely,

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General Lauris Norstad  
Supreme Allied Commander Europe  
Paris, France